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From Monday December 13. to Thursday December 16. 1703.

By the QUEEN,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a General FAST.

ANNE R.

WHereas by the late most Terrible and Dreadful Storms of Wind, with which it Pleased Almighty God to Afflict the greatest Part of this Our Kingdom on Friday and Saturday the Twenty sixth and Twenty seventh Days of November *last, Some of Our Ships of War, and many Ships of Our Loving Subjects have been Destroyed and Lost at Sea, and great Numbers of Our Subjects Serving on Board the same have Perished; and many Houses and other Buildings of Our good Subjects have been either wholly Thrown down and Demolished, or very much Damnified and Defaced, and thereby several Persons have been Killed; and many Stacks of Corn and Hay Thrown down and Scattered Abroad, to the great Damage and Impoverishment of many others, especially the Poorer Sort; and great Numbers of Timber and other Trees have by the said Storms been Torn up by the Roots, in many Parts of this Our Kingdom; A Calamity of this Sort so Dreadful and Astonishing, that the like hath not been Seen or Felt, in the Memory of any Person Living in this Our Kingdom, and which Loudly Calls for the Deepest and most Solemn Humiliation of Us and Our People: Therefore out of a Deep and Pious Sense of what We and Our People have Suffered by the said Dreadful Winds and Storms, (which We most Humbly Acknowledge to be a Token of the Divine Displeasure, and that it was the Infinite Mercy of God that We and Our People were not thereby wholly Destroyed) and Putting Our Trust in Almighty God, that upon Our Humiliation and Repentance, He will be Gracious to Us and Our Kingdoms, and will yet Vouchsafe a Special Blessing to Us and Our People in the Just War wherein We are Engaged: We have Resolved and (by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council) do hereby Command, That a General and Publick Fast be Observed throughout this Kingdom, in such manner as is hereinafter Directed and Prescribed, That so both we and Our People may Humble Our Selves before Almighty God, and may in most Devout and Solemn Manner send up Our Prayers and Supplications to the Divine Majesty, to Implore His Blessing and Favour, and the Continuance of His Mercy and the Protestant Religion to Us and Our Posterity; And that it would please him to Pardon the Crying Sins of this Nation, which have drawn down this Sad, and Heavy Judgment on Us and Our People; And to Avert all those Judgments which Our manifold Sins and Provocations have most justly Deserved; And to Obtain the Blessing and Assistance of Almighty God on the Forces of Us and Our Allies, both by Sea and Land; And for Restoring and Perpetuating Peace, Safety and Prosperity to Our Kingdoms and Dominions, and the Nations and States in Alliance with Us. And to the End that so Religious an Exercise may be Observed at one and the same time, We do hereby Publish and Declare to all Our Loving Subjects, and do strictly Charge and Command, That on Wednesday being the Nineteenth Day of* January *next, This Fast shall be Religiously Kept and Observed, throughout Our Kingdom of* England, *Dominion of* Wales, *and Town of* Berwick *upon* Tweed. *And for the more Religious and Orderly Solemnizing the same, We have given Directions to the Arch-Bishops and Bishops of this Our Kingdom, to Compose a Form of Prayer Suitable to this Occasion, to be Used in all Churches and Chapels, and other Places of Publick Worship, and to take Care for the Timely Dispersing thereof through their respective Dioceses. And we do strictly Charge and Command, That the said Fast be Reverently and Decently Observed and Performed by all Our Loving Subjects, as they Tender the Favour of Almighty God, and would Avoid His Wrath and Indignation, and upon Pain of such Punishment as We may justly Inflict on all such as shall Contemn or Neglect the Performance of so Religious and Necessary a Duty.*

Given at Our Court at St. *James's*, the Twelfth Day of *December*, 1703. In the Second Year of Our Reign.

GOD Save the QUEEN.

Constantinople, October 19. *N. S.* The Men of War belonging to this Government are returned from the *Black Sea*, but are put into a Bay of the *Bosphorus*, and will not come into Port till the Money be ready for paying off the Seamen, which will be in few days. The Captain Bashaw remains with the *Turkish* Gallies about the Streights of *Crimea*, where they have begun several Forts, with a Design to make themselves Masters of that Passage, and to hinder the *Muscovites* from coming down with their Fleet into the *Black Sea*, to which end they have also sunk everal Vessels filled with Stones in the Chanel: But it is thought by some who have seen these Works, that all this is done to very little purpose, the Passage being too wide to be commanded by their Castles, and the Current so strong, that it carries away all that is sunk in it, and will not suffer the Sands to gather there. The *Muscovites* gave them no Disturbance, but came and viewed their Works, and had a free Entercourse with them. This Government is providing Money to pay off the Soldiery, towards which 500 Purses of Money have been exacted from the Weywode of *Walachia*, who, upon Payment thereof, has been confirmed by the Grand Signior. The *English* Merchant Ships bound to *Smirna* arrived there the 2d Instant, under Convoy of the *Lenox* and *Dover* Men of War.

Lisbon, December 5. The *Spanish* Envoy, who lately resided here, arrived at *Elvas* the 28th of the last Month, and is to continue there till the King of *Portugal*'s Envoy comes to *Badajos*, which we suppose will be to day or to morrow, after which they are to be exchanged on the Frontier. When the *Spanish* Envoy left this Court, he dispatched an Express to the Duke of *Anjou* to acquaint him with it; and the King of *Portugal* sent another to his Envoy at *Madrid*, with Orders to come away immediately without taking Leave, otherwise than in Writing; This last Express arriving at *Madrid* some hours before the other, and a Report being industriously spread abroad, that the *Spanish* Envoy had been killed or detained here, two Alcaides de Corte, with a numerous Train of Alguaziles, were sent to surround the *Portugueze* Envoy's House, and to take care that no body should go in or out without being examined; which Commission they executed with great Rudeness ane Disrespect, as well to his Person, as his Character; But upon the Arrival of the other Express, that Court finding in how different a manner their Envoy here had been treated, to whom all the Kindness and Favour had been shewn which he could expect, they ordered the Alcaides and Alguaziles to leave the Envoy's House, and writ a Letter to him to excuse it. The King of *Portugal* resents this Proceeding very much. Every thing is in a readiness for the King of *Spain*'s Reception; and the Forces on the Frontiers are in a posture to oppose any Attempt the *Spaniards* might make before his Arrival. The *Spanish* Soldiers on the Frontiers desert daily in great Numbers, and enter themselves into this King's Service. On the first of this Month two Brigadiers General of Horse, two Aid de Camps, with a Captain of Horse, and several others, to the number of 22, got away from *Badajos* to *Olivenca*. They are since come to Town, and lodge at the Almirante of *Castille*'s; and in all probability they will soon be followed by many others.

Copen-